
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SHELTERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State needs to
continue to fund domestic violence shelters in order to provide
safe havens for women and their children made homeless due to
domestic violence. The rate of domestic violence continues to
increase, becoming one of the most significant social problems
facing the State of Hawaii. According to the statistics
provided by the Domestic Violence Clearing House and Legal
Hotline, the Honolulu police department, the Sex Abuse Treatment
Center, and the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic
Violence, in a population of approximately one million people
there is one death per month due to domestic violence.
Statewide, shelters serve approximately 1,000 adults and 1,100
children per year.

Statewide, the shelters are experiencing financial
difficulties. Additionally, shelters are finding it more and
more difficult to provide a high standard of service that will
assist the consumer's move towards stabilization. In this

1 regard, shelters find that individual consumer needs have
2 increased dramatically since 2004. Families and individuals
3 currently entering shelter placement are affected by an
4 inclusive menu of issues, including substance use and addiction,
5 mental health, child abuse and neglect, homelessness, loss of
6 income, lack of employable skills, lack of parenting skills, and
7 lack of medical and dental care. The needs of the consumer have
8 impacted service delivery. Domestic violence advocates must be
9 thoroughly trained to meet the varying needs of the consumer
10 base so that the consumer may move from shelter placement to a
11 non-abusive living environment. In order for this to be
12 accomplished, additional moneys must be allocated to meet the
13 varying needs.

14 The legislature finds that without additional funding,
15 statewide domestic violence shelters cannot meet the needs of
16 the community.

17 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for
18 domestic violence shelters.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
21 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to support
22 domestic violence shelters statewide.

1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

4

Report Title:

Domestic Violence Shelters; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates general funds for domestic violence shelters.
(SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.